

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 461 150

EA 028 879

AUTHOR Wilcox, Brian; Gray, John
TITLE Inspecting Schools: Holding Schools to Account and Helping Schools To Improve.
SPONS AGENCY Economic and Social Research Council, Lancaster (England).
ISBN ISBN-0-335-19674-8
PUB DATE 1996-00-00
NOTE 164p.; Published by Open University Press. Support also provided by Homerton College, Cambridge and Sheffield University.
AVAILABLE FROM Taylor & Francis, Inc., Orders and Customer Service, 7625 Empire Drive, Florence, KY 41042 (paperback: ISBN-0-335-19674-8, \$30.95; hardback: ISBN-0-335-19675-6, \$102.95). Tel: 800-634-7064 (Toll Free); Fax: 800-248-4724 (Toll Free); Web site: <http://www.taylorandfrancis.com>.
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Reports - Research (143)
EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Accountability; Case Studies; Educational Administration; *Educational Change; Educational Improvement; Elementary Secondary Education; Evaluation Methods; *Inspection; Institutional Autonomy; Observation
IDENTIFIERS Great Britain; *Inspectors

ABSTRACT

During the first half of the 1990s, the British government turned inspection into an ambitious instrument of educational policy-making. What happens when schools are inspected is the subject of this book. Based on a 3-year study, it answers such questions as "What happens when the inspectors announce that they intend to call?," "How do inspectors set about their tasks?," "What problems do they encounter?," "How do schools and teachers react to inspectors?," and "What changes as a result of the inspection?" The text explores the aftermath of inspection and the ways in which schools do (or do not) take up the inspectors' challenges. It examines the kinds of recommendations schools find relatively easy to implement and the factors that seem to make a difference in implementation. The chapters focus on the origins and development of school inspection, the claims for inspection, the experience of inspection, methodological problems, the impact of inspection on schools' development, inspection and the case of the "failing" school, and the theoretical perspectives of inspection. Finally, the volume examines issues that schools can expect from future inspections. Three case studies are provided. (Includes a name index, a subject index, and around 150 references.) (RJM)